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Sierra Starlight: The Astrophotography Of Tony Rowell



Synopsis

Explore the strange country of the nighttime Sierra. Tony Rowell, son of wilderness photographer Galen Rowell, has created a compelling world in his "astrophotographs" of nighttime landscapes awash with light from the cosmos. This new book showcases iconic Sierra Nevada landmarks, both natural and manmade, against the spectacular night sky. The Milky Way illuminates a fleet of boats in the harbor at Lake Tahoe; the old Methodist church at Bodie looks both inviting and spooky against the expanse of the night. At Mono Lake, spectral tufa towers stretch up to meet Leonid meteors; and farther west, water from Yosemite Falls cascades into a lunar rainbow. Accompanying several of the photographs are Rowell's stories of achieving a particular shot, stories that often include arduous feats such as carrying heavy packs of camera equipment at over 10,000-foot elevation and filming all night in subfreezing temperatures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“The images will take you back to your first campsites, starry nights and shooting stars.” --Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle
“Peaceful and magical.” --Adina LoBiondo, senior photo editor, Sierra magazine
“Pure pleasure.” --Boom: A Journal of California
“Gorgeous...Highly recommended.” --Donovan's Literary Services
“Tony Rowell's images combine spectacular celestial sights with equally enthralling earthly scenery.” --Michael E. Bakich, senior editor, Astronomy magazine
“Rowell adds another dimension to his cosmic photos by using light-painting techniques to create a fusion of

earth and space. —Chris Robinson, editor, Outdoor Photographer magazine

Tony Rowell's award-winning photos have been published in books, calendars, and many magazines. His astro time-lapse videos have been featured on the National Geographic Channel, and his astrophotography has been chosen as the Astronomy Picture of the Day on NASA's APOD website. Rowell's photography expeditions have taken him from the Arctic Circle to the mountains of Tibet, and his work has been exhibited at the Yosemite Museum, the Marin Headlands Visitor Center, and the Mountain Light Gallery in Bishop, California. Kenneth David Brower is the oldest son of the pioneering environmentalist David Brower. His first memories are of the Sierra Nevada and the wild country of the American West. His father drafted him into service as an editor at nineteen, and under that leadership he wrote or edited fourteen volumes in the Exhibit-Format Series of photography books produced by the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth. In his mid-twenties he departed his father's shop to become a freelance writer, and his work has appeared in The Atlantic, Audubon, National Geographic, Canadian Geographic, The Paris Review, Reader's Digest, Smithsonian, Sierra, Islands, and numerous other magazines. He is the author of the books The Starship and the Canoe, Wake of the Whale, A Song for Satawal, Realms of the Sea, The Winemaker's Marsh, Freeing Keiko, and many more. He lives in Berkeley, California.

This is a beautiful, inspiring addition to the library of mountain photography. Everyone who loves the Sierra will want these photos. I have spent much of my life in those mountains and have never seen them in quite the spectacular way that Tony reveals in shots from moonbows to comets to climbing at night to the unrivaled Sierra starlight. Tony's father, the late Galen Rowell, would be extremely proud of Tony for producing this book and even more pleased for him.

Beautiful images of the night skies from all over the mountains of California. Stars, lunar rainbows, comets, asteroids; all captured with majestic mountain scenery. A unique book. Great gift item.

One of the best natural photography books I've ready in years - nice to have something tangible that everyone can look, learn and explore.

Amazing photography! So happy I bought this book!

An exquisite, unique book. I love it!

Stunning Photography

This would be an exceptional collection of images if it were only the beautiful variety of features and phenomena of the Sierra night skies that it somehow captures on paper in a way that evokes the sensation and perception of actually being there at 10,000 feet on a dark night. I did not expect to also be treated to an equally striking tour of the Earthbound Sierra landscape, from waterfalls, to tufas, to ghost towns, bristlecones, and beyond, all viewed in literally a new light. For those considering it not only for themselves, but also as a gift, well, I will let a recipient speak for themselves: "About an hour ago we got a marvelous surprise---our mail delivery man rang our doorbell and handed me a package. The Tony Rowell book is beautiful. As you probably know, I love the starry night sky and miss it a lot since I so rarely am away from city lights. Did you notice page 59---I had to look twice to find the meteor, because more obvious and lovely is the great picture of Orion which is not mentioned." It sounds like they enjoyed it as much as I did!

Tony's father, Galen Rowell, took a famous shot at night in 1975 that showed stars above moon drenched Himalayas. Tony took that shot as a starting point and is pushing the boundaries of what can be captured at night into new realms. Absolutely amazing photos that will make you want to sit back and look at the stars again, like a kid, waiting for a shooting star to swoop across the sky.

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